

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CI

SUBJECT: COLBY-O'LEARY INTERVIEW

1. FOLLOWING ARE CHILE PORTIONS OF O'LEARY INTERVIEW WITH
CIA DIRECTOR COLBY WHICH APPEARS IN WASHINGTON STAR MARCH
20:

Q. A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A SIMILAR FUROR AND
PUBLIC INVESTIGATION INVOLVING THE AGENCY AND ITT IN CHILE.
WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE AGENCY'S ROLE IN CHILE?

A. WELL, THE FACT IS, AS I'VE SAID MANY TIMES -- I DON'T
WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE DETAILS OF OUR ACTIVITY THERE -- CIA
HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE COUP THAT OVERTHREW MR. ALLENDE.
IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MILITARY AT THAT TIME. WE
HAD A PROGRAM OF TRYING TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST SOME OF THE
DEMOCRATIC FORCES LOOKING TO THE ELECTIONS OF 1976, WHICH
WE HOPED THEY WOULD-WIN AGAINST MR. ALLENDE. THE FACT WAS,
HOWEVER, HIS POLICIES WERE SUCH THAT HE-GENERATED SO -MUCH
CONFUSION IN THE COUNTRY -- NOT CREATED BY CIA -- THAT THE
MILITARY DID MOVE AGAINST HIM. IF YOU ASK WHETHER THAT WAS
A CIA SUCCESS OR FAILURE, I WOULD SAY IT WAS A FAILURE,
BECAUSE THE PROGRAM WE HAD IN MIND DID NOT TAKE PLACE, WHICH

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IS THAT THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES WOULD SUCCEED EVENTUALLY

THROUGH ELECTIONS IN CHILE.

Q. WAS THE AGENCY AWARE THAT THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES INTENDED TO MOVE WHEN THEY DID?

A. WE HAD CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE COVERAGE OF IT AND WE HAD A SERIES OF ALERTS INDICATING THAT IT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. THE KEY TO IT WAS WHETHER SEVERAL DIFFERENT FORCES WOULD GET TOGETHER TO DO IT, AND WE HAD SEVERAL INDICATIONS THAT THEY WOULD ON A CERTAIN DATE AND THEN THEY DIDN'T. AND THEN THEY WOULD ON ANOTHER DATE, AND THEN THEY DIDN'T. AND THEN THAT THEY WOULD IN SEPTEMBER AND THEY DID.

Q. DID THE JUNTA ASK THE UNITED STATES OR THE CIA WHETHER THE NEW REGIME WOULD BE RECOGNIZED?

A. THEY CERTAINLY DID NOT ASK THE CIA, AND I DON'T KNOW OF ANY OTHER REQUESTS. INGERSOLL

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